

REMARKS

Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given this case. Claims 40, 43-53, 56-66, 69-74, 77-83, 86-96, 98-101, 103-108, 110-113, and 115-118 are pending in this case. Herein, Claims 1-39, 41, 42, 54, 55, 67, 68, 75, 76, 84, 85, 97, 102, 109, and 114 are cancelled and Claims 40, 43, 53, 56, 66, 69, 74, 77, 83, 86, 95, 98, 100, 104, 107, 110, and 116 are amended. Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider the present rejections in view of the amendments and the remarks presented herein. This response addresses those issues raised in the Office Action mailed on February 12, 2004.

Applicants wish to further thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 42-52, 55-65, 68-73, 76-82, 85-94, 97-99, and 109-111 contain allowable subject material. Applicants have incorporated the content of some of these dependent claims into each of the independent claims from which they depend. Thus, each pending independent claim includes allowable subject material. This set of amendments renders the earlier rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 moot. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are allowable in their present form. Communication to this effect is respectfully requested.


Further, Claims 102 and 114 have been cancelled and 104 and 116 have been amended. These amendments now are believed to overcome the rejection of Claims 104 and 116 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, paragraph 2.

Finally, copies of the Form 1449 and legible copies of references previously filed, but not considered were hand delivered to the receptionist of the Examiner's technology center on March 17, 2004. A copy of the returned postcard indicating receipt in Technology Center 3700 is attached hereto. The Examiner indicated in a telephonic interview with J. Dilmore on March 24, 2004 that she had received the references. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner review these references and so indicate review by returning a copy of the initialed PTO Form-1449 with the next Office Action.

If the Examiner believes that additional issues need to be resolved before this application can be passed to issue, the undersigned invites the Examiner to contact him at the telephone number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By 
James G. Dilmore
Reg. No. 51,618
REED SMITH LLP
P.O. Box 488
Pittsburgh, PA 15230-0488
(412) 288-3813

Agent for Applicants